

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE EXECUTIVE

HELD ON TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 2007

Present: Councillor A Napier (Chair)
Councillors R Crute, Mrs J Freak, Mrs E Huntington,
D Myers, Mrs A Naylor, G Patterson, R J Todd,
and P G Ward

Apologies: Councillor F Shaw

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 6 November 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **REVIEW OF HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Housing which sought approval to amend the Council's existing Housing Allocation Policy, to facilitate the introduction of a Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme in April 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that in June 2006 the Council agreed to move towards the introduction of a CBL scheme, as part of a county wide approach in line with the Government's target for all authorities to introduce CBL by 2010. The aim of a CBL scheme was to empower people living in the social rented sector to exercise more choice when making decisions about where they lived, which in turn would help to create sustainable local communities

Minor changes to the Council's Housing Allocation Policy were approved in July 2006 with the agreement to carry out a comprehensive review in advance of the introduction of CBL in April 2008. Details of the comprehensive review were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the changes to the Housing Allocation Policy and the introduction of a Choice Based Lettings scheme be approved;
- (ii) a further report, setting out any operational issues after six months of implementation of these policy changes be awaited.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS COUNCILLOR D MYERS DECLARED A PERSONAL BUT NOT PREJUDICIAL INTEREST AND REMAINED IN THE MEETING.

3. **REGENERATION PROJECTS REVENUE EXPENDITURE 2007/2008**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which gave details of regeneration projects revenue expenditure for the financial year 2007/2008, and sought approval to allocate funding towards specific budget headings, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

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Members were advised that each year the Projects Team had a capital allocation to facilitate regeneration activity in Peterlee and Seaham. However, recently more feasibility/design work was needed for certain projects. This work could not be funded from a capital budget, so a revenue stream had been identified this financial year to allow such work to be carried forward.

As well as revenue budgets for the major centres work, a revenue stream was allocated to assist the Land and Buildings Programme, and also an Enabling Fund to facilitate regeneration work that fell outside the major centres.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the proposed expenditure, outlined in the report, be endorsed;
- (ii) the Director of Regeneration and Development be authorised to progress the schemes.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS COUNCILLOR D MYERS DECLARED A PERSONAL BUT NOT PREJUDICIAL INTEREST AND REMAINED IN THE MEETING.

4. REGENERATION PROJECTS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2007/2008

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Regeneration which gave details of regeneration project expenditure for the financial year 2007/2008 against the Capital Programme allocation and sought approval to spend against specified budget headings, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that each year a budget was allocated to finance projects that came forward as part of the Seaham Regeneration Strategy and the Peterlee Masterplan. This year further finance had been made available to continue this renaissance activity.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the proposed expenditure, outlined in the report, be endorsed;
- (ii) the Director of Regeneration and Development be authorised to progress the schemes.

5. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, Section 100B(4)(b) the Chair, following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following item of business, not shown on the Agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

6. FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT PROCEDURE (AOB)

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Resources which sought approval for the introduction of a flexible retirement procedure in support of a provision in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

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Local government employers had recognised the benefit of retaining the experience and expertise of older local government employees and were influential in bringing about changes to the LGPS to allow employees to access their accrued pension benefits whilst remaining in work.

In April 2006 the LGPS was amended to provide that under Regulation 35 a Council could consider requests for flexible retirement under certain circumstances, details of which were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED that the flexible retirement procedure be approved with effect from 11 December 2007

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

8. RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF MATERIALS FOR RECYCLING

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Liveability which sought approval to award a contract for the delivery of a service for the kerbside collection of materials for recycling within the District of Easington, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

In accordance with the procedure set out in the Council's Constitution relating to call-in and urgency, the Executive agreed that the decision to be taken was urgent and that the Chair of the Council, in consultation with the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees be requested to waive the call-in process.

The decision was considered urgent as the existing contract for the delivery of a kerbside collection/recycling service expired on 1 April 2008. In order to ensure a new contract was in place and that the contractor could acquire premises, equipment and staff, the contract must be awarded mid December. In order to do so the authority had to notify unsuccessful tenderers as soon as possible to complete the 10 day standstill period before the end of December to permit the awarding of the contract. Any delay in awarding the contract could mean there was a significant risk that the contractor would not be ready to deliver the service from 1 April 2008.

RESOLVED that the variant bid from Greencycle be accepted.